

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALGIER 02934 151131Z
ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 SCA-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 /013 W
----- 008816 /53
R 150930Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5604

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2934

FOR SCA/PPT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, AG
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION OF US PASSPORT IDENTIFYING DATA

REF: STATE A-5619 OF 11/76

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF VISA POLICY HAS REPLIED, IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL TO DROP PLACE OF BIRTH IN US PASSPORTS, THAT SUCH A CHANGE COULD WELL CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO ISSUANCE OF ALGERIAN VISAS TO AMERICANS. MFA VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURES GOVERNED BY LEGISLATION WHICH SPECIFICALLY CALLS FOR APPLICANT'S DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH. MINISTRY THUS BOUND TO REQUIRE SUCH INFORMATION AND VERIFY ITS ACCURACY. SINCE DATA CONTAINED APPLICANT'S PASSPORT USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, AMERICAN APPLICANTS COULD BE HARD PUT TO PROVIDE OTHER SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE.

2. THOUGH VISA ISSUANCE ONLY SUBJECT MINISTRY OFFICIAL COULD COMMENT ON WITH AUTHORITY, HE SPECULATED THAT DELETION PLACE OF BIRTH MIGHT ALSO BE SOURCE OF DELAYS FOR AMERICANS DEALING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES.

3. COMMENT: ALL AMERICANS IN ALGERIA AT SOME POINT CONFRONT ALGERIAN BUREAUCRACY AND ITS OMNIVOROUS APPETITE FOR PERSONAL DETAILS AND EVERYTHING IN SEXTUPLICATE. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, LIFE IN ALGERIA FOR AMERICANS BEARING A PASSPORT WITH NO PLACE OF BIRTH COULD BE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT ALREADY IS. LYNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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